

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 037401

R 161402Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6034

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, ET

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN REACTION TO HAILE SELASSIE OUSTER

1. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL NIGERIAN REACTION TO DEPOSAL OF HAILE SELASSIE. FMG HOWEVER HAS SENT SPECIAL MESSAGE TO LEADER OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

2. PRESS REPORTING ON EVENTS LEADING TO AND ACTUAL FALL OF EMPEROR HAS PLAYED FOR CAUSE OF AFRICAN UNITY AND BRINGING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS OF AFRICA, EDITORIALS NEVERTHELESS POINT OUT HIS DEFICIENCIES IN ADMINISTRATION OF HIS OWN COUNTRY, STRESSING THAT HE WAS CLEARLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH PROBLEMS AFFECTING HIS PEOPLE AND LIKE TOO MANY OTHER AFRICAN RULERS, HAD REMAINED IN OFFICE TOO LONG. CHANGE, THEREFORE, WAS INEVITABLE. PRESS NOTES ETHIOPIAN MILITARY LEADERS HAVE GREAT CHALLENGE BEFORE THEM IN TRYING TO PUSH "BACKWARD COUNTRY INTO JET AGE," AND SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE URGED THEY IMPLEMENT THEIR PROGRAMS QUICKLY WITH SUGGESTION EARLY RETURN TO BARRACKS ADVISABLE BEFORE POPULARITY WANES.

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3. SUBDUED PRESS JUBILATION OVER OUSTER OF "ARCHAIC AND

FEUDAL REGIME" IS COUPLE WITH ADMONITION AGING EMPEROR  
SHOULD NOT BE HUMILIATED AND BE ALLOWED LIVE OUT REST OF LIFE  
IN PEACE.

4. COMMENT: CONTENTS OF GO ZWDS MESSAGE TO LT. GEN, AMAN  
ADOM NOT KNOWN. ASSUME IT CONTAINS FMG SUPPORT FOR NEW  
REGIME. IN ADDITION, SUSPECT THAT, GIVEN HAILE SELASSIE  
SUPPORT OF FMG DURING CIVIL WAR AND MUTUAL RESPECT BOTH MEN  
HAD FOR EACH OTHER, MESSAGE ALSO CONTAINS APPEAL THAT NEW  
REGIME TREAT DEPOSED EMPEROR WITH CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DEFERENCE  
IN VIEW OF HIS AGE AND INTERNATIONAL STATURE.

5. WITH DEMANDS FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE IN 1976 AND FOR  
RESTORATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON THE UPSWING, PRESS HAS  
FOUND DISPOSAL OF HAILE SELASSIE AS CONVENIENT VEHICLE FOR  
REMINDING MILITARY 1976 IS AROUND THE CORNER.  
REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ECONOMIC STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LAGOS08711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740260-0429  
**From:** LAGOS  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGERIAN REACTION TO HAILE SELASSIE OUSTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NI, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005